

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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WONDER WILLIAMS,

*Plaintiff,*

-against-

JAMES O’GORMAN, JOHN COLVIN, and  
MATTHEW THOMS,

*Defendants.*

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**STIPULATION OF  
SETTLEMENT,  
GENERAL RELEASE, AND  
ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

9:20-CV-01417  
(BKS)

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT, GENERAL RELEASE, AND ORDER OF DISMISSAL (“Settlement Agreement”) made by and between Plaintiff Wonder Williams (“Plaintiff”) and Defendants James O’Gorman, John Colvin, and Matthew Thoms (“Defendants”), Parties to the above entitled-action, that, whereas no party hereto is an infant or incompetent person for whom a committee has been appointed, and no person not a party has an interest in the subject matter of the action, the above-entitled action be and the same hereby is settled on the particular circumstances of this case, on the following terms and conditions, which it is agreed are of and shall have no legal precedential value in any other case either between the Parties to this case or any other parties:

WHEREAS, Plaintiff commenced the above-captioned action by filing a Complaint on November 16, 2020 (ECF No. 1), and an Amended Complaint on March 23, 2021 (ECF No. 24), alleging claims against the Defendants pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (the “Action”); and

WHEREAS, Defendants Answered the Amended Complaint (ECF No. 37), denying any wrongful conduct or liability in the Action ; and

WHEREAS, jury trial commenced on September 16, 2024, and a verdict was entered on September 20, 2024 (ECF No. 148); and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to fully resolve the remaining claims between them and any and all other disputes, whether known or unknown, without further litigation or proceedings before any court or other agency in this Action, and without admission of fault or liability; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) represents that it has the authority to sign this Settlement Agreement on behalf of, and bind, the Defendants in this Action; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, representations, and other consideration contained in this Settlement Agreement, the Parties hereby stipulate and agree, and the Court orders, as follows:

1. **Dismissal of the Action with Prejudice.** The Action and all remaining claims asserted therein are hereby dismissed, with prejudice, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a)(1)(A)(ii), with no rights of appeal. Plaintiff shall bears his own attorneys’ fees, costs, disbursements, or expenses in excess of the amounts specified in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement. Defendants shall also bear their own attorneys’ fees, costs, disbursements, or expenses.

2. **Payment to Plaintiff.** For and in consideration of Plaintiff’s execution of this Settlement Agreement, his agreement to be bound by its terms, and his undertakings as set forth herein including, but not limited to, the dismissal of the Action with prejudice and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, and subject to any reservation for payment to Medicare or other taxes, liens or setoffs as set forth in herein, The State of New York, on behalf of the Defendants, shall pay the gross sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100,000.00) in full and complete satisfaction of any and all claims, allegations, or causes of action for compensatory damages (including, but not limited to, pain and suffering, mental and emotional anguish and trauma, reputational damages, punitive damages, and

liquidated damages). The foregoing payment shall be made in accordance with Paragraph 4 and the payment check shall be made payable to Wonder Williams. The payment check shall be mailed to Sidley Austin LLP Attn: Ellen Dunn, 787 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019. Upon receipt, Sidley Austin LLP will forward the payment to Mr. Williams. The Office of the New York State Comptroller shall issue any and all appropriate Internal Revenue tax forms for the payment.

**3. State Approval of Payments.** Payment of the amount specified in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement is conditioned upon and subject to the approval of all appropriate State officials in accordance with N.Y. Pub. Off. Law § 17. Plaintiff has executed and delivered Plaintiff's Affirmation of Medicare Status to the OAG, which represents Defendants in the Action. Plaintiff's attorneys agree to execute and deliver all necessary and appropriate vouchers and other documentation requested with respect to obtaining such approval and effectuating payment.

**4. Accrual of Interest.** In the event that payment of the amount specified in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement has not been made by the one hundred twentieth (120th) day after receipt by the OAG of a "So Ordered" copy of this Agreement, entered into the record by the Clerk of Court, together with all other documentation required under Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Settlement Agreement, interest on any part of the settlement amount not paid by the one hundred twentieth (120th) day shall accrue at the statutory rate prescribed by 28 U.S.C. § 1961, commencing on the one hundred twenty-first (121st) day after receipt by the Office of the Attorney General of all documentation required under Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Settlement Agreement. However, if the provisions of N.Y. Exec. Law § 632-a apply to Plaintiff and the payment to Plaintiff of any amount specified in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement constitutes "funds of a convicted person" under the Son of Sam Law, the one hundred and twenty (120) day period shall be extended by an additional thirty (30) days to allow for compliance with that law.

5. **Responsibility for Taxes.** It is understood and agreed that any taxes, or interest or penalties on taxes, which may attach to the payment specified in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement, by operation of law or otherwise, shall be the sole and complete responsibility of Plaintiff, and that Plaintiff shall have no claim, right or cause of action against Defendants or the State of New York (including, but not limited to, any and all present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity) on account of such taxes, interest or penalties. Plaintiff agrees that he will defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Defendants and the State of New York (including, but not limited to, any and all present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity), in any claim, proceeding, action, or demand brought in any forum or manner, judicial, administrative or otherwise, to satisfy or for the satisfaction of any such tax or interest or penalty on such tax.

6. **Responsibility for Liens and Setoffs.** It is understood and agreed that any liens, setoffs, deductions, or recoupments of any kind (including, but not limited to, any and all workers' compensation, tax, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment compensation or benefits, or child support liens) which may attach to the payment specified in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement, by operation of law or otherwise, shall be the sole and complete responsibility of Plaintiff, and that Plaintiff shall have no claim, right or cause of action against Defendants or the State of New York (including, but not limited to, any and all present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity) on account

of such taxes, interest or penalties. Plaintiff agrees that he will defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Defendants and the State of New York (including, but not limited to, any and all present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity), in any claim, proceeding, action, or demand brought in any forum or manner, judicial, administrative or otherwise, to satisfy or for the satisfaction of any such any liens, setoffs, deductions, or recoupments.

7. **Medicare Certification.** Plaintiff represents and warrants that he is not currently a Medicare recipient and/or Medicare eligible, has never been on Medicare or Social Security Disability Insurance, that no conditional payments have been made on his behalf by Medicare, and further that he does not expect to be Medicare eligible and/or a Medicare recipient within the next thirty (30) months following the date of this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff has delivered a fully executed Affirmation of Medicare Status in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit A (“Medicare Affirmation”) to the Office of the Attorney General. Plaintiff acknowledges and understands that receipt of a fully executed Medicare Affirmation by the Office of the Attorney General, together with any required supporting documentation, is a prerequisite to payment of the settlement amount referenced in Paragraph 2 herein, and falls within the category of “other documentation” and “required documentation” described in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Settlement Agreement.

8. **Responsibility for Medicare Payments or Medicare Liens.** Plaintiff agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Defendants and the State of New York (including, but not limited to, any and all present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity) for any liens or past or future

Medicare payments presently known or unknown in connection with the Action. If conditional or future anticipated Medicare payments have not been satisfied, Defendants and the State of New York reserve the right to issue a multi-party settlement check naming Medicare as a payee or to issue a check to Medicare directly based on the Medicare Final Demand Letter with respect to the settlement amount specified in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement. Upon receipt of all required documentation under Paragraphs 3 and 4 payment of the settlement amounts specified in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement shall be made in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

9. **General Release.** For and in consideration of the payment of the settlement amount(s) referenced in Paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, and except for the rights and obligations set forth in this Settlement Agreement, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself, his heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns (collectively, “the Releasing Parties”), hereby releases and forever discharges the Defendants, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and the State of New York, together with their present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, heirs and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity, or any of them, or all of them (collectively, “the Released Parties”) from all manner of claims, actions, proceedings, suits, grievances, administrative charges, injuries, debts, obligations, dues, sums of money, accounts, contracts, agreements, promises, damages, judgments, and demands whatsoever, direct or indirect, known or unknown, discovered or undiscovered, that the Releasing Parties ever had, now has, or shall or may have in the future against some, any, or all of the Released Parties, related to or arising out of the acts, transactions, occurrences, or

omissions which are described, alleged, or contained in the Action, including any other claims, causes of action, rights, or administrative charges for relief, whether for moneys owed, equitable relief, costs, fees, or other expenses, including attorney's fees, arising out of said acts, transactions, occurrences, or omissions prior to this Action.

10. **Waiver of Attorneys' Liens.** The undersigned attorneys for Plaintiff do hereby release and waive any attorneys' lien they may have on the settlement proceeds in the Action pursuant to N.Y. Judiciary Law §§ 475 and 475-a or any other state or federal law, statute, contract, or otherwise.

11. **No Other Attorneys.** Plaintiff represents and warrants that there are no attorneys that have a lien on the settlement proceeds in the Action pursuant to the provisions of N.Y. Judiciary Law §§ 475 and 475-a or any other state or federal law, statute, contract, or otherwise.

12. **No Prevailing Party.** Neither Plaintiff nor the Defendants shall be deemed a "prevailing party" for any future statutory or contractual claim based upon "prevailing party" status with respect to the Action.

13. **No Admission of Liability.** It is understood and agreed that any actions taken or payments made pursuant to this Settlement Agreement are made solely to avoid the burdens and expense of protracted litigation, and that this Settlement Agreement and the actions taken or payments made pursuant hereto are not to be construed as constituting any determination on the merits of any remaining claims in the Action or as constituting any admission of wrongdoing or liability on the part of the Defendants or the State of New York (including, but not limited to, any and all present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity). Nothing contained in this Settlement

Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a policy, practice, or custom of the Defendants or the State of New York (including, but not limited to, any and all present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity).

**14. No Precedential Value.** This Settlement Agreement shall not in any manner be construed as determinative of the issues or claims raised in the Action or any other proceeding, and shall have no precedential value. In addition, notwithstanding the provisions of any paragraph herein, this Settlement Agreement shall not bind or collaterally estop the Defendants or the State of New York (including, but not limited to, any and all present and former agencies, departments, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, administrators, principals, officers, employees, directors, members, agents, attorneys, insurers, and assigns, whether in an individual or official capacity) in any pending or future actions or proceedings in which the same or similar issues are raised, from defending any and all issues raised in said actions or proceedings, or from advancing any and all available defenses.

**15. Authority.** Each signatory to this Settlement Agreement hereby represents and warrants that they have the requisite authority to enter into this Settlement Agreement and have not previously assigned or transferred any rights or interests with respect to the matters covered by this Settlement Agreement.

**16. Voluntary Agreement.** Plaintiff represents that he has carefully read and fully understands all provisions of this Settlement Agreement, including the General Release. Plaintiff represents that he has executed and delivered this Settlement Agreement voluntarily after being fully informed of its terms, contents, and effect, and acknowledges that he understands its terms,



contents, and effect. Plaintiff acknowledges that no compromise or representation of any kind, other than as set forth or referred to herein, has been made to any party or anyone acting on behalf of any party.

17. **Negotiated Agreement.** The Parties acknowledge that each party has cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Settlement Agreement. The language in all parts of this Settlement Agreement shall be in all cases construed according to its fair meaning and not strictly for or against any party.

18. **Binding Effect on Successors and Assigns.** The terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the successors and assigns of each party hereto.

19. **Entire Agreement.** This Settlement Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties hereto pertaining to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes and embodies, merges and integrates all prior and current agreements and understandings of the parties hereto, whether written or oral, with respect to the subject matter of this Settlement Agreement, and may not be clarified, modified, changed, or amended except in a writing duly executed by the parties hereto or an authorized representative of the parties hereto.

20. **Severability.** If any provision other than Paragraphs 2, 4, and 9 of this Settlement Agreement shall be held by this Court or another court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable in whole or in part, such decision shall not invalidate the remaining portions of this Settlement Agreement.

21. **Governing Law.** The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York applicable to contracts to be performed wholly within the State of New York, except to the extent that federal law may apply

to Plaintiff's release and waiver of federal claims pursuant to this Settlement Agreement.

22. **Headings.** The headings contained in this Settlement Agreement are for convenience of reference only and are not a material part of this Settlement Agreement.

23. **Counterparts.** This Settlement Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same instrument.

24. **Submission to the Court.** This Settlement Agreement shall be submitted without further notice to the Court to be "So Ordered."

25. **Retention of Jurisdiction.** This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction and power to interpret and enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

WHEREFORE, the Parties hereto acknowledge that they have read this Settlement Agreement and accept and agree to the provisions contained herein, and have each executed this Settlement Agreement to be effective upon being "So Ordered" by the Court.

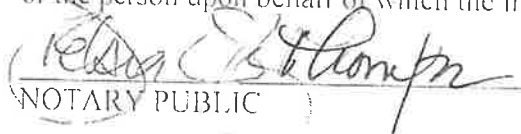
Dated: September 25, 2024

  
PLAINTIFF WONDER WILLIAMS

STATE OF DELAWARE

COUNTY OF NEW CASTLE

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024, before me personally came and appeared Wonder Williams, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

DEBORA S P THOMPSON  
Notary Public  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
My Commission Expires 05-21-2026

Dated: September 26, 2024  
New York, New York

By:




Michael Lisak, Bar No. 704311  
Leslie Kuhn-Thayer, Bar No. 704670  
(admitted pro hac vice)  
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Dated: September 26, 2024  
Albany, New York

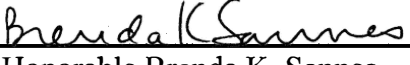
LETITIA JAMES  
Attorney General  
State of New York  
*Attorney for Defendants*

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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(518) 776-2616  
Ryan.Hickey@ag.ny.gov

Dated: September 27, 2024

SO ORDERED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable Brenda K. Sannes  
Chief United States District Judge

**EXHIBIT A**

**[MEDICARE AFFIRMATION]**